

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Claim Objections:

The Examiner objects to claim 5 because it contains a typographical error. Applicants appropriately amend claim 5 to correct the error.

II. Claim Rejections on Prior Art Grounds:

The Examiner rejects claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 4,988,912 to Borgis (“Borgis”); and claims 2 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Borgis in view of U.S. 6,409,372 to Peters et al. (“Peters”) and U.S. 6,410,678 to Ishida et al. (“Ishida”). Applicants respectfully traverse all of these rejections in view of the following remarks.

A. *Claims 1 and 3:*

Claim 1, as amended, recites an insulating plug with a body that has a lamp-connector provided at the rear end portion and the entirety of the body is made of a glass fiber reinforced plastic. Borgis does not teach or even suggest each and every limitation recited in claim 1.

The Examiner alleges that Borgis discloses an insulating plug with the body 8 being made of a glass-fiber-reinforced plastic. (See Figs. 1 and 2). Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner is either misinterpreting or misapplying the reference for at least the following reasons.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. NO. 09/899,281 (*Q65287*)

Borgis discloses that an end portion 3 of a lamp vessel 1 is fixed in a lamp cap 5 by means of conical ring 8 made of thermoplastic synthetic resin that can include glass fibers.

The ring 8 is not an “insulating plug body,” as recited in the instant claims, but rather a cementing material. The ring 8 is applied to the hot end of the lamp vessel, subsequently the hot end of the lamp cap is provided on the ring, wherein a connection is obtained upon cooling. (See col. 3, l. 38-60). This ring, which acts as an adhesive, is completely different from the glass-fiber reinforced plastic body of the present invention.

According to the Examiner, the ring 8 is “a front end portion” of the “body.” But in Fig. 1 of Borgis, that would mean that the lamp cap 5 is the “body.” However, since claim 1 requires the “body” to be made of glass fiber reinforced plastic, then Fig. 1 is deficient since the lamp cap 5 is made of metal.

Turning to the next point, Applicant respectfully submits that a discharge lamp uses very high voltage electric current, and if the plug body has low strength, the plug body is broken by a dielectric breakdown phenomenon. Furthermore, a load is applied to the plug body when it is inserted and detached from the lamp body, and if the plug body has low strength or rigidity, the plug body is broken at the time of insertion or detaching (See Spec., p. 2, l. 17 – p. 3, l. 4). In order to solve the above problems, the present invention provides a strong and rigid plug body which can resist high voltages and high loads. This type of plug body has pins as connecting members, and the stress concentrates on the pin portion of the body at the time of insertion or detaching. So, high strength is needed for the plug body.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. NO. 09/899,281 (*Q65287*)

On the other hand, the lamp of Borgis does not use high voltage electric current, and the type of connection is very different to the discharge lamp typed like the present invention. As a result, Borgis does not provide and teachings or suggestions pertinent to solving the above problems of the discharge lamp.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over Borgis for reasons above, and that claim 3 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

B. Claims 2 and 4-6:

As a preliminary matter, Applicants perfect the claim to priority by submitting a certified translation of the Japanese priority application, thereby antedating the Ishida reference.

Since the Ishida application is based on a PCT application filed on or after November 29, 2000, and since the PCT application was published in a language other than English (i.e., Japanese), Ishida has no §102(e) date. However, Ishida's published PCT application (published on June 7, 2001) is prior art under §102(a). Still, the published PCT application is antedated via the submission of the certified translation of the Japanese priority application.

Since Applicants have effectively removed Ishida and its published PCT application as prior art, the §103 rejection is overcome. Applicants also point out that Peters and Ishida clearly fail to supply the deficiencies of Borgis.

Finally, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 5 and 6 are separately patentable. The Examiner only relies on Borgis' disclosure of 30%, but this is outside the range in claim 5. (See col. 5, l. 3-5).

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. NO. 09/899,281 (Q65287)

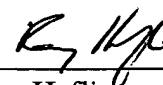
Finally, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 5 and 6 are separately patentable. The Examiner only relies on Borgis' disclosure of 30%, but this is outside the range in claim 5. (See col. 5, l. 3-5).

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-6 are patentable.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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